

POSTAGES OF THE EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENTS.

MESSAGE

FROM

THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES,

RELATIVE

To postages paid at the treasury during the year ending 30th June, 1846; in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 7th instant.

JANUARY 27, 1847.

Read, and laid upon the table.

To the House of Representatives of the United States :

I communicate, herewith, a report of the Secretary of the Treasury, accompanied by a statement of the Register of the Treasury, prepared in compliance with a resolution of the House of Representatives of the 7th inst., requesting the President "to furnish the House with a statement showing the whole amount allowed and paid at the treasury during the year ending 30th June, 1846, for postages of the Executive departments of the government, and for the several officers and persons authorized, by the act approved 3d March, 1846, to send or receive matter through the mail free, including the amount allowed or allowable, if charged, for the postages of any officers or agents, military, naval, or civil, employed in or by any of said departments." It will be perceived that said statement is as full and accurate as can be made during the present session of Congress.

JAMES K. POLK.

WASHINGTON, January 25, 1847.

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
January 21, 1847.

SIR: I have the honor to submit herewith a statement of the Register of the Treasury, prepared in obedience to your order, on the resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the 7th inst, in the following terms :

"Resolved, That the President of the United States be requested to furnish this House with a statement showing the whole amount allowed

and paid at the treasury during the year ending 30th June, 1846, for postages of the Executive departments of the government, and for the several officers and persons authorized, by the act reducing the rates of postage, approved 3d March, 1846, to send or receive matter through the mail free, including the amount allowed or allowable, if charged, for the postages of any officers or agents, military, naval, or civil, employed in or by any of said departments."

The Register's statement sets forth the inevitable delay arising from the mass of details necessary to be gone through in preparing an exact statement from the accounts of the civil officers kept in his custody by law. Similar difficulties will attend the preparation of such statements by the accounting officers charged with accounts of disbursement for the military and naval services, who were immediately called on when your order was received here. In presenting the enclosed statement, giving the information called for as accurately as can be done during the present session of Congress, I beg leave to suggest for your consideration the propriety of awaiting further action, on the part of the House of Representatives, before undertaking to complete the details within the scope of the resolution.

Very respectfully, your obedient servant,

R. J. WALKER,

Secretary of the Treasury.

To the PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

Statement showing the whole amount allowed and paid at the treasury during the year ending 30th June, 1846, for postages of the Executive departments of the government, and for the several officers and persons authorized, by the act reducing the rates of postage, approved 3d March, 1846, to send or receive matter through the mail free.

For the Secretary of State	-	-	-	\$2,023 56
For the Secretary of the Treasury	-	-	-	2,787 44
For the First Comptroller	-	-	-	309 48
For the Solicitor of the Treasury	-	-	-	237 00
For the Commissioner of the General Land Office	-	-	-	3,831 01
For the First Auditor	-	-	-	1,394 13
For the Second Auditor	-	-	-	745 18
For the Third Auditor	-	-	-	2,460 10
For the Fourth Auditor	-	-	-	1,724 06
For the Fifth Auditor	-	-	-	424 63
For the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post Office Department	-	-	-	4,928 94
For the Treasurer of the United States	-	-	-	1,082 53
For the Register of the Treasury	-	-	-	2,054 83
For the Secretary of War	-	-	-	647 58
For the Commissioner of Indian Affairs	-	-	-	625 31
For the Commissioner of Pensions	-	-	-	787 19
For the Major General commanding	-	-	-	67 34
For the Adjutant General	-	-	-	3,065 11
For the Quartermaster General	-	-	-	2,254 26

For the Commissary General of Subsistence	-	-	\$1,141	83
For the Paymaster General	-	-	1,019	87
For the Surgeon General	-	-	482	31
For the Chief of the Corps of Engineers	-	-	379	76
For the Colonel of Topographical Engineers	-	-	711	18
For the Colonel of Ordnance	-	-	1,207	65
For the Secretary of the Navy	-	-	2,034	30
For the Chief of the Bureau of Docks and Yards	-	-	330	04
For the Chief of the Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography	-	-	269	38
For the Chief of the Bureau of Construction and Equipment	-	-	518	85
For the Chief of the Bureau of Provisions and Clothing	-	-	423	04
For the Chief of the Bureau of Medicine and Surgery	-	-	632	67
For the Chief Engineer	-	-	410	46
For the Attorney General	-	-	81	45
For the President and Vice President of the United States	-	-	724	68
For the ex-Presidents, widows of Presidents, and certain books and documents franked by governors of States under act 30th June, 1834	-	-	357	23
For the Postmaster General	-	-	169,816	40
For the Assistant Postmaster General and postmasters	-	-	8,761	61
For the members of the Senate of the United States and its Secretary	-	-	7,282	30
For the members of the House of Representatives and its Clerk	-	-	22,349	14
Total	-	-	250,383	83

The above statement includes only the postages paid at the Treasury Department to the postmaster of the city of Washington, for the officers named. The postage on mail matter sent from those officers can only be ascertained by examination of the quarterly accounts of all offices with whom they have correspondence. Such an examination would require much time, and involve great labor, in various offices. It would include the accounts of all foreign ministers, consuls, consular agents, collectors of the customs, naval officers and surgeons, marshals and district attorneys, receivers and registers of the land offices and surveyors general, light-house keepers and revenue cutter officers, postmasters, assistant treasurers, and officers of the army and navy. By law only a portion of those accounts are deposited in this office. An examination of all those accounts would delay an answer to the call of the House to a period beyond its present session. Under a suggestion from the Treasury Department, I take the liberty of estimating the postages on mail matter sent, not included in the above statement. After carefully considering all the information within my reach, I estimate the amount of postages on mail matter sent from the above officers to be fully equal to that charged on the like matter received, as exhibited in the above statement.

R. H. GILLET, *Register.*

TREASURY DEPARTMENT,
Register's Office, January 9, 1847.

